

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /072 W

-----025469 180709Z /23

R 170851Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3143

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

SECDEF WASHDC

JCS

CINCPAC

CINCPACREPPHIL

UNCLAS MANILA 4382

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, RP, CH, VM

SUBJ: SPRATLY ISLANDS: VISIT TO MANILA OF PRC VICE PREMIER

REF: MANILA 3965

1. MARCOS SAID IN THE COURSE OF A SPEECH MARCH 15 TO THE SUGAR INDUSTRY THAT THE GOP HAS STANDING AGREEMENTS WITH THE PRC AND THE SRV TO SETTLE THROUGH DIPLOMATIC MEANS ANY CONFLICT OR DISAGREEMENT ARISING OUT OF THEIR CLAIMS IN THE SPRATLY ISLANDS. HE SAID THE AGREEMENT WITH THE PRC WAS CONCLUDED IN 1975 WITH VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING, WHILE THE AGREEMENT WITH THE SRV WAS CONCLUDED IN 1977 WITH DEPUTY PREMIER MINISTER NGUYEN DUY TRINH.

2. MARCOS ALSO DESCRIBED AS "COMPLETELY FALSE" REPORTS THAT THE GOP "RECENTLY" OCCUPIED PANATA ISLAND IN THE SPRATLYS. HE SAID THAT PANATA HAS BEEN OCCUPIED BY
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PHILIPPINE TROOPS SINCE 1971, NOTING THAT OCCUPATION OF THE ISLAND GOES EVEN EARLIER THAN 1971 WHEN TOMAS CLOMA (PHILIPPINE ATTORNEY AND PART-TIME EXPLORER) LAID CLAIM (1956) ON FREEDOM LAND (THE SPRATLYS) AND TOOK SETTLERS TO THE ISLAND.

3. APPARENTLY REFERRING TO DISCUSSIONS WITH VISITING

PRC VICE PREMIER (AND/OR FOREIGN MINISTER), MARCOS
WELCOMED THE PRC REAFFIRMATION OF THE 1975 UNDERSTANDING
REGARDING THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF COMPETING CLAIMS
TO THE SPRATLYS. HE DESCRIBED THE SPRATLYS AS ONE OF
TWO SERIOUS AND "AWKWARD PROBLEMS" FACING THE PHILIPPINES/PRC
RELATIONSHIP (THE OTHER IS THE INSURGENCY OF THE COMMUNIST NEW
PEOPLE'S ARMY) AND STATED HE HOPED THE PHILIPPINES
COULD MANAGE THE SPRATLY PROBLEM SO THAT IT "WILL NOT
EXPLODE INTO AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT." HE EXPRESSED
THE HOPE THAT THE PRC'S EXAMPLE OF "UNDERSTANDING AND
MAGNAIMITY WOULD BE ADOPTED BY THE REST OF THE WORLD."
NEWSOM

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
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